

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, GREYSTONES ON TUESDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present: Councillor J. Whitmore, Cathaoirleach
Councillors T. Fortune, N. Lawless, G. McLoughlin, D. Mitchell & G. Walsh

Also Present: Mr. M. Nicholson, Greystones Municipal District Manager
Mr. R. O'Hanlon, Greystones Municipal District Engineer
Mr. E. Forristal, Exec. Engineer, Greystones Municipal District
Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

Apologies from: Ms. M. Porter, Greystones Municipal District Administrator

At the outset, Councillor D. Mitchell requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss the allocation of funding to the Municipal Districts. It was agreed to discuss this matter before notices of motion.

Councillor G. McLoughlin requested a suspension of standing orders to allow discussion on the fact that a new Coast Guard Station would not now be built in Greystones. It was agreed to discuss this item in conjunction with the report on the harbour development.

It was agreed to send letters to Fionuala McCormack and Mark Kyle to congratulate them on their achievements in the recent Olympic Games.

It was also agreed to send a letter of congratulations to Dermot Macaulay who was recently appointed Officer in Charge of the Greystones Coast Guard Unit.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor T. Fortune, seconded by Councillor D. Mitchell and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 26th July 2016, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

2. PROGRESS REPORT ON GREYSTONES HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT

Members were circulated with a report outlining progress on the Greystones harbour development.

In relation to moorings, the members requested that Sean Quirke be reminded about setting up a further meeting, as soon as possible, when quotations for inspection of mooring chains had been received. They asked for clarification about why it was necessary to have the mooring chains removed and replaced each year as they understood that this did not happen in other harbours.

In relation to the Coast Guard Station the members stated that it was unacceptable that this was not now going ahead when so much work had been carried out and vast sums of money spent to date. They requested that the Council discuss the matter with the local Coast Guard Unit, who they said were never consulted, to see what was required by them. They expressed the view that a new Coast Guard Station, albeit smaller than what was proposed, was vital for this essential service and they expressed concern about the knock-on effect on the Greystones Garda

Station who had proposed to extend into the existing Coast Guard building. They suggested that a meeting with representatives from the OPW should be arranged and that the five local TDs should be asked to intervene.

The members agreed to seek a suspension of standing orders at the County Council meeting on 3rd October 2016 to have this matter discussed in detail.

3. 2016 SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS FUNDING

Members were given an update on expenditure to date and advised that the balance of the Public Realm Project fund amounting to circa €49,000 was earmarked for toilet facilities at the harbour.

It was pointed out by the members that it was not now intended to purchase banners/flags for the railway station area this year and it was suggested that the funding should be used for a clean-up of the roundabouts on the Charlesland Road instead. The District Engineer pointed out that it was not intended that discretionary funds should be used for maintenance works. He suggested that the Council could look at seeking sponsorship of the roundabouts for next season.

Following discussion it was agreed that members would submit proposals for allocation of the balance of the Arts Programme funding in the sum of €10,500 prior to the October meeting.

4. REPORT FROM GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ENGINEER

A report outlining works carried out in the district had been circulated to the members and the District Engineer answered queries from the members in relation to same.

Following discussion it was agreed to refer the following items to Wicklow County Council for attention:

1. Repair/removal of ramps – especially those at Kilcoole NS, Crow Abbey/Burnaby Heights, Church Lane and Mill Road
2. Repair of pothole on ramp at Mill Road
3. Flooding at Holywell, Kilcoole
4. Prioritising of footpaths at Applewood Heights for works next year
5. Gulley clearing in Delgany village
6. Flooding issue at Kilcoole Road/Farrankelly dual carriageway roundabout

5. ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS IN GREYSTONES

Members were notified of the outcome of a recent meeting with Ross McParland and the Happy Pear (Conor Kirwan) in relation to Christmas Lights in the town this year. Following discussion it was agreed that the Community Affairs Committee would meet shortly with other business representatives who had expressed an interest in helping out, and revert back to the members following that meeting. It was pointed out that the Christmas Lights switch on would take place on Saturday 26th November 2016 at 4.00 p.m.

ALLOCATION OF FUNDING TO MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

Councillor D. Mitchell had circulated the members with a comprehensive breakdown of figures in relation to the allocation of funding to all the Municipal Districts. The figures showed that the Greystones Municipal District fared very badly in relation to the other Districts across all levels.

In reply to a suggestion that a certain percentage of development levies should be set aside for the District in which they were generated, the District Manager pointed out that this would require a change in the Development Levy

Scheme at County Council level. He pointed out that any additional funding allocated to the Greystones Municipal District would have to be at the expense of another Municipal District.

Members stated that the bulk of Local Property Tax in Wicklow was collected in the Bray and Greystones areas, but that this was not reflected in the allocation of funding and they outlined the need to have projects, especially roads projects, completed in the Greystones District. Members stated that they would not vote in favour of County Council budgets if this anomaly was not rectified.

Following discussion it was agreed that the District Manager would set up a meeting with officials from the Finance Section before the County Council meeting on Monday 3rd October to discuss this matter in more detail.

6. NOTICES OF MOTION:

(a) Motion in the name of Councillor J. Whitmore:

“That the Council examine the possibility of purchasing the site at Fairfield Park for the purposes of building social housing, and that an update be provided on the proposed sale of the 1 acre of council land adjoining Fairfield Park”.

The members were advised of the contents of a report received from Wicklow County Council in relation to this motion.

Following discussion, the District Manager agreed to arrange a meeting with officials from the Housing Section in County Buildings prior to the County Council meeting on 3rd October to discuss this matter in more detail.

(b) Motion in the name of Councillor J. Whitmore:

“That the Council review the life guard huts to ensure that they are located in the most appropriate locations along the beach. This is necessary due to changes in the beach topography and popularity in swimming spots over the past number of years”.

The District Engineer stated that the Lifeguards operated on the designated swimming area of the Blue Flag beach. He pointed out that people could swim at other areas and that not all designated swimming areas needed or had a Lifeguard.

It was agreed to defer the following notices of motion to the October meeting in order to discuss some urgent correspondence received:

(c) Motion in the name of Councillor J. Whitmore:

“That the Council review Church Lane, Greystones to ensure both pedestrian and driver safety, including the condition of the ramps and potholes, ensuring that hedgerows at the top are cut back to allow access to the path, the possibility of putting double yellow lines the length of the lane (one side only), and installing a yellow-box at the entrance to the R761”.

(d) Motion in the names of Councillors G. McLoughlin & D. Mitchell:

“That Wicklow County Council places a bin beside the bus stop in front of the Farrankelly estate on Mill Road”.

(e) Motion in the names of Councillors G. McLoughlin & D. Mitchell:

“That Wicklow County Council either remove or gets the Charlesland Management Company to remove the waste that is dumped into the river (fridge, sofa etc) between Burnaby Lawns and Charlesland Wood”.

(f) Motion in the names of Councillors D. Mitchell & G. McLoughlin:

“When will the road surface at Blacklion be improved and is some issue of surface water drainage holding repairs up”.

(g) Motion in the names of Councillors D. Mitchell & G. McLoughlin:
“The road markings on the pedestrian crossing on Church Road in the town centre need repainting”.

(h) Motion in the names of Councillors G. McLoughlin & D. Mitchell (deferred from September meeting):
“That Wicklow County Council implements, as a matter of urgency, plans for Delgany that include a reduction of the speed limit, upgrade of the roads and footpaths and appropriate signage for the village”.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

1. The members were advised of a request from a Mr. Albert Kerr to attend the October meeting of the MD to discuss proposals for a recreational water facility at Calary.

Councillor N. Lawless pointed out that although the proposed project was in the Bray MD area, Mr. Kerr wanted to brief the members of the Greystones MD prior to bringing the matter to the County Council at a future date.

Following discussion it was agreed not to invite Mr. Kerr to make a presentation to the Greystones MD as the members would have an opportunity to consider same at a County Council meeting.

2. The members were advised of the contents of a report from Wicklow County Council outlining the position with the Derelict Site status of the La Touche Hotel.

Following discussion it was agreed to write to the Planning Section of Wicklow County Council to request them to meet the Developer and discuss the conservation or restoration of the façade of the old La Touche building.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

DATED THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2016.